This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A ~~device~~ handle for one-handed ergonomic manipulation of a tool or the like, the tool being detachably connectible to the handle, ~~distributing forces from the hand and wrist of a user to the forearm of the user, said device~~ comprising:

the handle having forward and rearward ends ~~a forward end in the general direction of the hand and a rearward end in the general direction of the arm, said arm including the wrist and the forearm~~;

an attachment post at the forward end of the handle, the post having a first longitudinal axis~~, constructed, at said forward end, for attachment to~~;

a connector at the forward end of the post, constructed to releasably attach a tool or the like ~~appliance~~ to the handle;

a grip fixed to ~~said~~ the attachment post, the ~~and extending rearward therefrom, said~~ grip having a second longitudinal axis extending transverse to ~~said~~ the first axis in a pistol-grip configuration;

a ~~substantially flat,~~ seat portion fixed to ~~said~~ the grip and extending rearward therefrom ~~in a plane transverse to said second axis, said seat portion having a raised contour from forward to rearward, facing the arm~~ to underlie the bottom of the user's wrist when the grip is grasped without restraining side-to-side flexure of the wrist; and

a band-like, elongate brace integral with and extending from one side of the seat portion, the brace extending rearwardly and in a continuous helix that wraps progressively and, in cooperation with the seat portion, defines a substantially complete revolution about ~~constructed substantially in the form of a helix, said helix circumscribing~~ an open space to accommodate and surround the lower arm of the user, from the wrist to the rearward end of the device ~~said brace fixed to said seat and extending rearward therefrom, and~~

~~wherein said brace and said seat provide a series of individual supporting surface portions for bearing against the arm along the extent of the brace in response to movement of the arm within the brace, said arm movement being responsive to an external force applied to the brace in any direction, and wherein said individual supporting surface portions occur in separate, parallel~~

~~planes, oriented substantially transverse to a longitudinal axis of the brace, and said transverse, parallel planes are displaced longitudinally on said brace and said seat~~.

2. (currently amended) An ergonomic handle ~~A device for distributing forces,~~ according to claim 1, wherein said open space circumscribed by said brace has a conical shape.

3. (currently amended) An ergonomic handle ~~A device for distributing forces,~~ according to claim 1, wherein said attachment post, said grip, said seat, and said brace are integrally formed as sections of a body.

4-5. (cancelled)

6. (currently amended) An ergonomic handle ~~A device for distributing forces,~~ according to claim 1, wherein said first and second axes intersect in an acute angle.

7. (currently amended) An ergonomic handle ~~A device for distributing forces,~~ according to claim 6, wherein said second axis and ~~said plane of~~ the seat intersect at an angle which is supplementary to said acute angle.

8. (currently amended) An ergonomic handle ~~A device for distributing forces,~~ according to claim 1, wherein said helix is constructed with a ~~pitch~~ helix angle that ~~decreases~~ increases from forward to rearward.

9. (currently amended) An ergonomic handle ~~A device for distributing forces,~~ according to claim 1, wherein said helix is constructed with a radius of curvature that increases from forward to rearward.

10. (currently amended) An ergonomic handle ~~A device for distributing forces,~~ according to claim 1, wherein said brace is constructed with a substantially straight portion at its distal end to provide additional space for insertion of the arm into said conical space.

11. (Cancelled).

12. (currently amended) An ergonomic handle, ~~A device for distributing forces~~ according to claim 1, wherein said brace is oriented ~~within the device~~ so that the wrist is free to flex to allow the hand to twist on said grip about said second axis.

13. (currently amended) An ergonomic handle, ~~A device for distributing forces~~ according to claim 1, wherein said brace is oriented ~~within the device~~ so that the wrist is free to flex about a third axis displaced rearward of said second axis and transverse thereto.

14. (currently amended) An ergonomic handle, ~~A device for distributing forces~~ according to claim 1, wherein said brace is oriented ~~within the device~~ so that the wrist is free to flex to allow the hand to twist on said grip about said second axis and to flex about a third axis displaced rearward of said second axis and transverse thereto, said flexing operating to lock the wrist and forearm into engagement with the brace to distribute forces away from the wrist.

15-16. (cancelled)

17. (currently amended) An ergonomic handle, ~~A device for distributing forces~~ according to claim 1, wherein said seat is substantially flat from forward to rearward.

18. (currently amended) A ~~device~~ handle for one-handed ergonomic manipulation of a tool or the like, the tool being detachably connectible to the handle,~~distributing forces from the hand and wrist of a user to the forearm of the user, said device~~ comprising:

the handle having forward and rearward ends ~~a forward end in the general direction of the hand and a rearward end in the general direction of the arm, said arm including the wrist and the forearm~~;

an attachment post at the forward end of the handle, the post having a first longitudinal axis ~~said post constructed, at said forward end, for attachment to a tool or appliance~~

a connector at the forward end of the post, constructed to releasably attach a tool or the like to the handle;

a grip fixed to ~~said~~ the attachment post, the ~~and extending rearward therefrom, said~~ grip having a second longitudinal axis extending transverse to ~~said~~ the first axis in a pistol-grip configuration;

a band-like, elongate brace integral with and extending transversely to one side of the grip, the brace extending rearwardly and in a continuous helix that wraps progressively and for a substantially complete revolution to define ~~constructed substantially in the form of a helix, said helix circumscribing~~ an open space to accommodate and surround the lower arm of the user, from the wrist to the rearward end of the device ~~said brace fixed to said seat and extending rearward therefrom, and~~

~~wherein said brace provides a series of individual supporting surface portions for bearing against the arm along the extent of the brace in response to movement of the arm within the brace, said arm movement being responsive to an external force applied to the brace in any direction, and wherein said individual supporting surface portions occur in separate, parallel planes, oriented substantially transverse to a longitudinal axis of the brace and said transverse, parallel planes are displaced longitudinally on said brace~~.

19. (currently amended) An ergonomic handle~~, A device for distributing forces~~ according claim 18, wherein said open space circumscribed by said brace has a conical shape.

20. (currently amended) An ergonomic handle, ~~A device for distributing forces~~ according claim 18, wherein said attachment post, said grip, and said brace are integrally formed as sections of a body.

21-22. (cancelled)

23. (currently amended) An ergonomic handle, ~~A device for distributing forces~~ according claim 18, wherein said first and second axes intersect in an acute angle.

24. (currently amended) An ergonomic handle, ~~A device for distributing forces~~ according to claim 18, wherein said helix is constructed with a ~~pitch~~ helix angle that ~~decreases~~ increases from forward to rearward.

25. (currently amended) An ergonomic handle, ~~A device for distributing forces~~ according to claim 18, wherein said helix is constructed with a radius of curvature that increases from forward to rearward.

26. (currently amended) An ergonomic handle, A device ~~for distributing forces~~ according to claim 18, wherein said brace is constructed with a substantially straight portion at its ~~distal~~ rearward end to provide additional space for insertion of the arm into said conical space.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (currently amended) An ergonomic handle, ~~A device for distributing forces~~ according to claim 18, wherein said brace is oriented ~~within the device~~ so that the wrist is free to flex to allow the hand to twist on said grip about said second axis.

29. (currently amended) An ergonomic handle, ~~A device for distributing forces~~ according to claim 18, wherein said brace is oriented ~~within the device~~ so that the wrist is free to flex about a third axis displaced rearward of said second axis and transverse thereto.

30. (currently amended) An ergonomic handle, ~~A device for distributing forces~~ according to claim 18, wherein said brace is oriented ~~within the device~~ so that the wrist is free to flex to allow the hand to twist on said grip about said second axis and to flex about a third axis displaced rearward of said second axis and transverse thereto, said flexing operating to lock the wrist and forearm into engagement with the brace ~~to distribute forces away from the wrist~~.

31-32. (Cancelled)

33. (currently amended) In combination with a hand-held tool or the like having a pistol grip, a brace to facilitate one-handed ergonomic manipulation of the tool, the~~A brace for distributing forces of a user to the forearm of the user in conjunction with a grip of a hand held tool or appliance, said~~ brace comprising:

the brace having a forward end ~~in the general direction of the hand~~ and a rearward end ~~in the direction of the arm, said arm including the wrist and the forearm~~;

the forward end of the brace being attached to the pistol grip, the rearward portion of the brace comprising a band-like, elongate member ~~a body constructed substantially~~ in the form of a continuous helix that wraps progressively and for a substantially complete revolution to define~~,~~ ~~said helix circumscribing~~ an open space to accommodate and surround the lower arm of ~~-~~the user~~, said brace attached to said grip and extending rearward therefrom, and~~

~~wherein said body provides a series of individual supporting surface portions for bearing against the arm along the extent of the brace in response to movement of the arm within the brace, said arm movement being responsive to an external force applied to the brace in any direction, and wherein said individual supporting surface portions occur in separate, parallel planes, oriented substantially transverse to a longitudinal axis of the brace and said transverse, parallel planes are displaced longitudinally on said helix.~~

34. (currently amended) ~~A brace for distributing forces,~~ The combination according to claim 33, further comprising a ~~substantially flat,~~ seat portion fixed to said grip and extending rearward therefrom ~~in a plane~~ transverse to the grip~~, said seat portion having a raised contour from forward to rearward, facing the arm, integrally formed with said body,~~ and extending between said grip and said ~~body~~.brace

35. (currently amended) The combination ~~A brace for distributing forces,~~ according to claim 34, wherein said brace and seat are integrally formed with said grip.

36. (currently amended) The combination ~~A brace for distributing forces,~~ according to claim 33, wherein said open space circumscribed by said brace has a conical shape.

37. (currently amended) The combination ~~A brace for distributing forces,~~ according to claim 33, wherein said helix is constructed with a pitch that decreases from forward to rearward.